

The championship game was won 2 to 1 by the Commandos under the leadership of Head Coach Russ Plummer and Assistant Coach Darren Frank. Goals were made by seniors Jeff Cundiff and Dylan Brown. Other team members include seniors Ryan Brody, David Kopko, Ryan McComas, Leif Sherry, Clark Hastings, Ian Cummings, and Ben Meyer; juniors Danny O'Keefe, Doug Ziegler, and Michael Rose; and sophomores Joe Carmack, Ryan Alexander, Travis Pulley, Jeremy Willis, Hank Stanfill, Andy Duensing, Corey DeGuira, and Zach Glaser. I congratulate these players and others who have made significant contributions to their success, including Hendersonville High School Principal Paul Decker, Athletic Trainer Robb Williams, Athletic Director Charlie Lewis, and Team Managers Kathy Calderala and Megan McMullen.

However, the greatest honor goes to the parents who, I am sure, are very proud of their sons' accomplishments. I give my highest congratulations to these young men on their great achievement. I am certain the Hendersonville community is very proud of these young men for their hard work and dedication.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL DAVID
(MICKEY) MARKUS

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to honor the memory of a truly exceptional citizen on the 50th anniversary of his tragic death.

Colonel David (Mickey) Markus was a hero. Brooklyn born and bred, Colonel Marcus graduated from West Point in 1924 before returning to Brooklyn to attend Brooklyn Law School. After graduation, Colonel Marcus served our country as an Assistant United States Attorney and then as an officer in the Army during World War II.

In 1948, Colonel Markus travelled to the Middle East to fight for the creation of a Jewish state in the War of Independence. While serving as an officer in the Israeli army, Colonel Markus was killed in battle.

Even though he was serving in a foreign army, Colonel Markus was buried at West Point under special permission by President Truman. His contribution to the fight for an independent Israel were recognized by Prime Minister Ben Curion, who issued a special statement in his honor. Colonel Marcus's gave is honored with pebbles left by visitors in the Jewish tradition.

Colonel Marcus made our neighborhood and our country proud. We recognize his achievements on this solemn day and honor his memory.

CONGRATULATING BENJAMIN
FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Benjamin Franklin Middle School in

Ridgewood, New Jersey, on receiving the U.S. Department of Education's prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

This award recognizes that Benjamin Franklin Middle School is one of the finest schools in our entire nation. This proves that public education works and that our young people in Bergen County are among the best and brightest. This accomplishment is the result of hard work on the part of students, their parents, teachers and the Board of Education. Special congratulations go to Principal Paul Folkemer, and Superintendent of Schools Frederick J. Stokley. As a former teacher and school board member, I am proud of everyone associated with this accomplishment.

Of the thousands of middle schools and high schools across the United States, only 166 this year were found to be outstanding enough to receive this high honor. Recipients of the Blue Ribbon Schools Award have been judged particularly effective at meeting local, state and national goals. The award is presented to schools that have shown strong leadership, a clear vision and sense of mission, high quality teaching, challenging curriculum, a safe environment for learning, solid evidence of family involvement, evidence that the school helps all students achieve high standards, and a commitment to share best practices with other schools. These schools clearly display the quality of excellence necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century.

With 600 students, Benjamin Franklin has served students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades as a middle school since 1985, when it reorganized from a junior high serving seventh, eighth and ninth grades. The mission of the school is to "help children grow up"—intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically—and its organization, instructional program and support system are focused on that goal. The school is divided into two "houses," each with an administrator, guidance counselor, learning disabilities consultant and 12 teachers divided into three teams of four each. Each team meets daily to discuss curriculum, review individual student progress and coordinate activities.

The school's curriculum is comprehensive and challenging. All sixth-grade students are required to take classes in English, math, science, social studies, a foreign language, physical education, art, technology, health and music. Seventh- and eighth-graders take courses in the same categories plus a selection of electives. The focus of the curriculum is on mastery of the language, problem solving, creativity, critical thinking and basic skill development.

Modern technology is a part of all courses. The school has a three-room technology center, a television studio, an automated information retrieval system, and televisions, telephones and computers in every classroom. Students word process all English assignments.

Since 1990, Benjamin Franklin has emphasized a "reality-based" curriculum that links academic topics to real-life situations. Students have explored how race relations played a role in the Yankees' decision to stay in the Bronx, the arson of African-American churches and the World War II Holocaust.

The excellence of Benjamin Franklin's academic program has been repeatedly recognized. In 1996, the school was selected as

one of the top 10 schools in New Jersey and was recognized for its reality-based curriculum. In the past four years, the school has received nine Best Practices Awards from the state Department of Education, recognizing its courses in citizenship (twice), career education, English (twice), art, special education, foreign language and physical education. No other school in New Jersey has received that many awards during the four-year history of the Best Practices program.

Benjamin Franklin students are well prepared by their teachers, parents and role models in the community. They can rest assured they will be able to handle whatever challenges they choose in life. Once again, congratulations to everyone involved in this impressive achievement.

SPEAKER GINGRICH ADDRESSES
ISRAEL'S PARLIAMENT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to share with our colleagues the address the Speaker delivered at Israel's parliament during our visit last week in commemoration of Israel's jubilee anniversary. The Speaker's appearance at the Knesset podium was the first by any Speaker of the House of Representatives. Such a historic event reaffirms and underscores the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel, and especially between Israel and the Congress of the United States. Accordingly, while many of our colleagues were privileged to hear the Speaker deliver these moving remarks, I am certain that the remainder of our colleagues would appreciate having the opportunity to review these remarks as well.

This congressional visit to Israel—to celebrate the miraculous rebirth of the modern State of Israel—was the largest visit of Members of the House and Senate to Israel in its fifty-year history. Under the Speaker's leadership, Members participated in valuable meetings with Prime Minister Netanyahu, and with Speaker Dan Tichon, with colleagues of ours in the Knesset. In what was a precedent-setting meeting, it was agreed that a US-Israel parliamentary group would be established, with the first bilateral focus to be on missile defense systems.

We were also privileged to spend several hours with Minister of National Infrastructure Ariel Sharon, who took us to two settlements across the green line in the West Bank. At one site, known as Paduel, we saw across the entire coastal plain to Ben Gurion airport and the skyline of Tel Aviv. It was clear that Israel's security concerns are deep and real.

In his remarks to the Knesset, Speaker GINGRICH eloquently relayed the affection and respect we have for the people and State of Israel. It was a memorable and historic day for the Knesset, the Congress of the United States, and for the citizens our two great democratic institutions represent.

Accordingly, I submit the Speaker's speech for the Knesset to be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.